

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 23, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 4 and 21-22, as follows:

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (previously presented) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 22, wherein said second member (3; 13; 33) is arranged essentially perpendicular to said first member (2; 12; 32).

Claim 3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A connecting element as set forth in claim [[23]] 22, wherein a connector (33) comprises said at least one base plate (32), and said base plate has said at least one said elongated opening (34, 35) with ~~said tooth-like notches~~ the toothing (37.1, 37.2) located along the length of said at least one elongated opening (34, 35) for engagement with complementary notches of one said fastening element.

5. (previously presented) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 4, wherein an outer contour of said connector (33) is formed complementary to an inner contour of the support so that said support can slide over said connector (33).

6. (previously presented) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 4, wherein an inner contour of the connector (33) is shaped complementary to an outer contour of a support so that the support can be inserted into said connector (33).

7. (previously presented) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 4, wherein said connector (33) has a rectangular configuration with openings (41.1 to 41.4; 51.2, 51.4; 52.1, 52.3) arranged parallel to a plane for the passage of a fastening element, with said plane formed through said first member (32) of the connecting element.

8. (previously presented) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 7, wherein a plurality of additional openings (41.1 to 41.4; 51.2, 51.4; 52.1; 52.3) are spaced vertically relative to each other in a plurality of planes parallel to each other.

Claims 9-12 (canceled).

13. (previously presented) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 22, wherein a surface zone surrounding at least one said elongated opening has said notches (6, 7).

Claim 14 (canceled).

15. (previously presented) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 22, wherein the outer contour of said at least one first or second member (2, 3) is complementary to the outer contour of at least one of the supports capable of being connected with said connecting element (1; 11; 31).

Claims 16-19 (canceled).

20. (previously presented) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 4,
wherein said at least one base plate (32) is arranged in the same plane as said first member.

21. (currently amended) A connecting element, as set forth in claim 22,
wherein the pitch of ~~said tooth-like notches~~ the toothing is 2.5 mm.

22. (currently amended) A connecting element for an assembly system ~~comprising~~ including a plurality of system supports having openings arranged in a defined spacing on at least one of a plurality of outer walls (68.1, 68.2) of the system supports, said connecting element (1; 11; 31; 65) comprising:

an elongated first member (2; 12; 32); and

at least one elongated second member (3; 13; 33) with spaced elongated sides (8, 9; 28, 29; 38, 39), with the first and second members (2, 3; 12, 13, 32; 33) joined together, and with at least one of said first and second members (2; 12; 32; 3; 13; 33) having at least one elongated opening (4; 5; 14; 15; 34; 35; 66) spaced between and inwardly of said elongated sides thereof and extending in the elongated direction (8.1, 8.2; 28.1, 28.2; 38.1, 38.2) thereof and with at least a plurality of notches formed by a continuous toothing and extending transversely of the length of said elongated opening, said notches being arranged for securing said connecting element (1; 11; 31; 65) to one of said system support or to a base surface by a fastening element (61) passed through said at least one said elongated opening (4, 5; 14, 15; 34, 35; 66) and engageable with complementary ~~tooth-like notches~~ toothing (20, 21; 37.1, 37.2; 69.1; 69.2) of the fastening element (61), said connecting element ~~(11; 35; 65)~~ (1; 11; 31; 65) has at least one corrugation (10.1, 10.2; 30.1; 30.2; 40.1, 40.2; 90.1, 90.2) formed therein extending outwardly from a surface (2.1, 3.1; 12.1, 13.1; 32.1, 33.1; 92.1) of at least one of said first member (2; 12; 32) or second member (3; 13; 33) containing said elongated opening (4, 5; 14; 15; 34, 35; 66), said corrugation (10.1, 10.2; 30.1; 30.2; 40.1, 40.2; 90.1, 90.2) having a first wall (2.2, 3.2; 12.2, 13.2; 32.2, 33.2; 92.2) generally parallel to and spaced outwardly from the surface (2.1, 3.1; 12.1, 13.1; 32.1, 33.1; 92.1) containing the elongated opening (4, 5; 14, 15; 34, 35; 66), and first and second side walls (2.3, 3.3; 12.3, 13.3; 32.3, 33.3; 92.3) extending from said first wall (2.2, 3.2;

12.2, 13.2; 32.2, 33.2; 92.2) to [[a]] the surface (2.1, 3.1; 12.1, 13.1; 32.1, 33.1; 92.1) from which said corrugation (10.1, 10.2; 30.1; 30.2; 40.1, 40.2; 90.1, 90.2) extends, said first side wall (2.3; 12.3; 32.3; 92.3) facing said opening and having ~~tooth-like notches~~ toothing therein complementary to ~~tooth-like notches~~ toothing in one of said supports to which said connecting element is to be secured.

Claim 23 (canceled).